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- (31) *La Terre champ de l'activité humaine*. M. L. GALLOUÉDEC. Rev. Scientif. (Paris), 4^e Série, Tome VIII (1897), pp. 262-271.

An interesting study of the relation of man to the planet on which he dwells, treating from a French point of view some of the questions discussed by Dr. W. J. McGee in his pamphlet, "Earth, the Home of Man," published in 1894. The influences of relief, situation, soil, climate, are touched up, and the great variation in the value of these factors in the course of human history emphasized. Man first conquered the hill-sides, then the plains, and now bogs and morasses, and even the loftiest mountains are yielding to his skilful attacks.

- (32) *Des conditions d'Arrêt ou d'Avortement de groupes humains*. M. F. SCHRADER. *Ibid.*, pp. 38-44.

According to the author, all changes, nothing is fixed — fauna, flora, customs, habits, civilizations, all pass away. The idea of nineteenth-century peoples that their civilization is stable, is fixed, will endure, is an illusion. Bordeaux will die when vineyards are no more in France. Spain died as lord of the Indies long ago. Egypt, as Herodotus said, is a "gift of the Nile." The cliff dwellers tell a tale of ease and comfort long disused. The Negritos of the Philippines, the Ainos of Japan, the Eskimo, the Lapps, the Bushmen, have all been driven to the wall. But some have their revenges. Resurging through the Spanish strata the old Aztec rules Mexico — in Chili, Peru, Brazil, the redskin's face appears again. It seems impossible entirely to suppress a people, a race. The survival of the fittest takes place even here. They persist who are sons of the soil and of the sun. The force of things makes them to be born again.

- (33) *Les Lois phoniques*. M. MICHEL BRÉAL. *Ibid.*, pp. 34-38.

Phonetic laws are neither fatal nor blind, says the distinguished linguist of the academy. Phonetic changes start from *one* individual, and unless they are welcomed, remain without effect and are soon forgotten. The practical study of phonetics, inaugurated by Gaston Paris, and since pursued with the aid of the phonograph and other instruments, has done much to re-orient us on the question concerning which the older authorities spoke so confidently.

- (34) *Le Transformisme et son interpretation en Crâniologie*. M. G. PAPILLAULT. *Ibid.*, pp. 392.

The persistence of the medio-frontal suture in the skull, *e. g.*, of modern Parisians, and the existence of certain peculiarities in the region of the obelion, concerning which the author has written at greater length elsewhere, are manifestations of a progress, not a regression to an ancestral state, though they may be reckoned among the cases of atavism. The correlation of the metopic suture with intelligence is an interesting point.

- (35) *L'Inanition du noyau cellulaire*. S. M. LOUKIANOW. *Ibid.*, pp. 513-519.

The author gives some account of experiments from which he concludes that the cell nucleus as well as the body, are diminished by complete or incomplete nucleus, a diminution subject to particular laws. The cell nucleus therefore have a biological autonomy of their own. M. Loukianow thinks that our one great gift to the biology of the twentieth century will be not proof of the simplicity of the cell, but of its *organic complexity*.

- 36) *La fonction du Cerveau*. CHARLES RICHET. *Ibid.*, pp. 641-649.

The brain alone, of all the organs of the body, has consciousness and intelligence. The brain is the organ of the past, the medulla the organ of the present. In a word the brain is a memory apparatus.

- (37) *Les conquêtes de la Psychiatrie*. CÉSARE LOMBRÓS. *Ibid.*, pp. 577-583.

The author notes some of the recent discoveries of psychiatry, "the new Prometheus, which is seeking to snatch away the secret of the nature of human thought." The study of the man of genius, the savage, the idiot, the child, reveals much of the complicated as well as the simple workings of thought. Hysterics, epilepsy, hypnotism, sleep, dreams, automatisms, psychic reactions, all bring their quota to the recognition of types and characteristic modes and degenerations of thought and action, to the understanding of the parallel between the phenomena of ideation (the highest and the least under control) and those of sensation (the humbler and most controllable). The conclusion of it all is the rather pessimistic view that "we live in the false, for the false, with the false; the true is only met with exceptionally in the world." Of the great mass of men in the world it may be said *fruges consumere nati*; the slave of habits, words, sounds even, they sacrifice to these the idea, and oppose research, discovery, truth, science. By sacrifice and suffering alone have great revolutions been accomplished.

- (38) *Y a-t-il des Nerfs spéciaux pour la Douleur?* PH. TISSIÉ. *Ibid.*, pp. 402-404.

The author states his agreement with the pain-centre theory of Richet, put forward in criticism of the views of M. Frédéricq, published last year.

- (39) *Zur Katatonie - Frage*. Eine klinische Studie. Von SCHÜLE (Illenau). *Allg. Ztschr. Psych.* Berlin, LIV Bd. (1897), S. 515-552.

An extended criticism of the view, first fully set forth by Kahlbaum in 1873, that katatonia was a special clinical form of disease. After examination of the katatonic phenomena, the author concludes that the clinically independent status of the affection has not yet been made out—much less the idea of "a katatonic motility-nemesis." It is merely a "gathered-up" name, a heuristic appellation for the most diverse motor stimulation and inhibition symptoms.

- (40) *Zur Pathologie der Epilepsie*. DR. MED. N. KRAÏNSKY. *Ibid.*, 612-665.

The general results of the extended experiments of Dr. Kraïnsky of Charkow seem to indicate that the blood is the carrier of the epileptic poison. The author made special investigations of the chemical nature of the reactions obtained.

- (41) *Die Hypothese der specifischen Nervenzellenfunction*. DR. FRANZ NISSEL. *Ibid.*, S. 1-107.

This is an elaboration of the address delivered before the annual meeting of German psychiatrists at Heidelberg in September, 1896. More than 60 pages are taken up with the explanation in detail of the four plates (eight figures), by which the article is accompanied, and other illustrations not there given.